

Minutes – Winterstoke Hundred Academy

Meeting Date: 11 December 2023

Location: WHA

Time: 4.00pm

Chair:

Felicity Williamson (FW)	Sponsor Councillor & Chair
Kathryn Volk (KV)	Sponsor Councillor
Tony Searle (TS)	Interim Principal
Chris Henley (CH)	Parent Councillor
<i>Vacancy</i>	LA Representative Councillor
<i>Vacancy</i>	Sponsor Councillor
<i>Vacancy</i>	Sponsor Councillor
Matt Randle (MR)	Principal
Sian Williams (SW)	Parent Councillor

Apologies:

Ciarán Elster (CE)	Teacher Councillor
Charlotte Sexton (CS)	Student Advocate

In Attendance:

Steve Holland (SH)	Vice Principal
Sue Burns (SB)	Clerk

Item	Description	Action
1	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
1.1	FW welcomed everyone to the new building and introduced Matt Randle (the new Principal).	
1.2	Apologies were accepted for Ciaran Elster and Charlotte Sexton.	
1.3	The Academy Councillors toured the new building and the sports hall.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	FW advised the Academy Council that she had a pecuniary interest in relation to the Admissions Policy because she has a daughter who could apply for 6 th form entry in 2026. There is a potential change to the WHA Admissions Policy which will require a consultation if the change is adopted.	
2.2	The remaining Academy Councillors confirmed that they had no pecuniary interests relevant to this meeting.	
3	Academy Council Membership	
3.1	AC membership: There are currently three Sponsor vacancies, A Parent AC vacancy, an LA AC vacancy and a Support Staff vacancy. Clare Towler has applied for one of the Sponsor vacancies, her application is being processed by HR.	
3.2	All the Academy Councillors were reminded provide a head and shoulders photograph for the website.	
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
4.1	The minutes of the meeting of 11 th October 2023 were approved.	
5	Matters Arising & Actions	
5.1	8.4 TS to arrange for the next AC meeting to take place at the new site – Completed.	

	9.9 TS to determine if ACs can have WHA badges because they are DBS cleared – In progress. 11.7 TS to update the positive handling staff list – Carried forward, action transferred to MR.	
6	Safeguarding Link Visit - KV	
6.1	Gemma Lock is going to focus on attendance and will become the DDSL alongside Alex McCarthy who is the DSL.	
6.2	Are the Safeguarding team offered external supervision? MR: It is available to them, but they take it up at their own discretion.	
6.3	Behaviour issues are more prevalent in female students than in male students which is unusual. The restricted space at the original site adds to the challenge. There has been an increase in low level truancy.	
6.4	There are more students with EHCPs in Y7 than further up the school.	
6.5	Aggression and violence among girls is higher post-pandemic than pre-pandemic.	
6.6	Is the girl violence prevalent in a single year group? MR: Yes, in Y9. Those students didn't have a secure transition to Secondary school due to lockdown.	
6.7	Pastoral staff are supporting poor behaviour with a graduated response and the new heads of year are female.	
6.8	Are girls peer on peer issues differed to that of boys? MR: Boys tend to have a one-off incident which is then over. Girls' behaviour can be more prolonged and involve complex relationship changes.	
6.9	KV noted that the Safeguarding team have done a remarkable job over the last year and the CPOMS reporting processes have been finessed and embedded.	
7	SEND Update – FW	
7.1	Pupil Passports are evolving so that they are more appropriate for Secondary aged pupils.	
7.2	Targets are being reviewed to ensure they are aspirational.	
7.3	The quiet room is now staffed for most of the day.	
7.4	Students have a pass that they can use to excuse themselves from class for 10 minutes.	
7.5	Will the pass arrangement transfer to the new building? MR: Yes, and there will be time for the students to access a suitable room.	
7.6	Is there a limit on how often the passes can be used? MR: Once within a lesson.	
7.7	Staff CPD has taken place.	
7.8	The library requires additional books. There has been some discussion around sourcing books from a range of organisations. The Foil Foundation provide books to Trusts who bid for a grant to purchase books with.	
7.9	A SEND Parents evening has been arranged.	
7.10	Independent Living classes will commence next term, after school.	
8	Ofsted Feedback	
8.1	FW thanked all the ACs for their Link Visit Reports which she referred to during the inspection.	
8.2	The draft report has been received and updated. The final report is due shortly and will then be distributed to our stakeholders and community.	
8.3	What were the Ofsted Parent Survey Results like? 72% would recommend WHA. Some parents with children with SEND needs were frustrated by the SEND provision, but much of that has already been addressed.	
8.4	24% of responses indicated that parents felt that bullying had not been dealt with effectively? There are robust processes in place. It's likely that the issue lies with closing the communication loop with parents.	

8.5	Is the bullying physical or online? Verbal bullying is the most prevalent, followed by social media. There is a limited number of physical incidents.	
8.6	How do you deal with online bullying? We collect evidence and take statements, then we issue sanctions and educate accordingly. The rebuilding process can be very powerful. Racist and disablist incidents are reported to the PCSO who helps to educate the students.	
8.7	What about incidents that take place outside of school? We deal with incidents within the school day and to and from school. Outside of these times it is the parents' responsibility to support their children. If we are made aware, then we will work with the family to support and educate the child and to help them to identify what constitutes bullying.	
8.8	Are their plans in place to address the OFSTED feedback? Formative assessment was a clear thread, along with early reading which is embedding. The Inset Day on the 1 st January 2024 has formative assessment CPD included in it. All staff have professional development action plans.	
8.9	Why doesn't the current Assessment Policy Work? The assessment park works, but it's the formative processes in the classroom which need to be refined and embedded. Some teachers need to evolve their questioning and provide quality in-classroom feedback.	
8.10	<i>The AC thanked the SLT and staff for their professionalism during the WHA OFSTED inspection, as well as the CLF Central Team who provided support.</i>	
9	Mocks	
9.1	Y10 mid-term exams are planned for 22nd January onwards. English, Maths, and Science will be held in the exam hall and we will ensure that access arrangements are in place.	
9.2	Additional invigilators are required, we are recruiting to the vacancies now.	
9.3	Core revision guides have been issued and information has been shared with parents and carers.	
10	Personal Development at WHA	
10.1	The anti-bullying ambassador went on a trip to Bristol and will put together a charter for next term.	
10.2	The PSHE curriculum has been plotted for each term.	
10.3	Careers: We are raising aspirations and will provide work experience for Y11.	
10.4	Will your Student Council be disconnected because the year groups are on different sites? No, because the students will represent their own year groups. There will also be some opportunities to be on each of the sites.	
10.5	We have launched an EDI Group and an LGBTQ+ Group.	
11	Reading	
11.1	180 students have been tested for reading ages.	
11.2	All staff have been trained in 'That Reading Thing'.	
11.3	Some P-16 students will do volunteering which will include reading on the main site.	
12	Post 16	
12.1	There have been 94 applications for P-16 so far (compared to 98 at this point last year). We will work hard to keep them engaged and to invite them to taster events so that they form an affinity with us.	
12.2	What are the most popular P-16 options? We offer a range of A-levels with some complimentary vocational subjects.	
12.3	Will you offer P-16 subjects that you also offer at GCSE? Yes, but the government is recommending T-Levels.	
12.4	What is a T-Level? It involves more industry work placements alongside academic qualifications. Finding appropriate employers will be challenging.	

12.5	Some schools have not facilitated us to present to their Y11 students, which is a statutory requirement, therefore we are addressing this with them.	
12.6	We have another P-16 evening planned. Feedback has been that we are a good option for students hoping to access University.	
12.7	Are you fully staffed for P-16? We will not run Computer Science for Y12.	
13	New Build	
13.1	The new building is impressive. Staff are packing ready for items to be moved in the next few days. Staff CPD will take place on the new site at the end of this week.	
13.2	There has been a significant number of snagging items which are being systematically addressed.	
13.3	Will a full site inspection take place before opening? Yes, and James is on site every day, monitoring the snagging.	
13.4	How many students will start on 3rd January 2024? 560. We have used the same room numbering system as the original site.	
13.5	Will the timetables be changed? Yes, we will move to double periods to facilitate a reduction of movement. We aspire to Y10 and Y11 having access to the original building as part of transitioning into P-16.	
13.6	A frozen water pipe nearly closed the original building? The issue is being monitored moving forward.	
14	Policies	
14.1	Policies to Note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspensions & Exclusions Policies to Approve Anti-Bullying (reviewed and recommended by KV and FW) KV and FW reviewed the above policy on behalf of the AC.	
15	Matters for the Board/COAC	
15.1	The Admissions Policy may be changed to indicate that CLF schools are feeder schools for WHA P-16.	
16	AOB	
16.1	None.	
17	Close of Meeting	
17.1	The meeting closed at 5.40pm	